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Bangalore Mirror

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CAREER GOALS

2.74 lakh students opt for engineering courses this year

PAGE 2

DESIGNS IN WATER

Students use tech to devise ways to revive 2 lakes in city

PAGE 4

Months after cable replacement, delay in permissions is keeping Peenya flyover off-limits for heavy vehicles. As traffic congestion rises, commuters want to know reason for hold-up

VEHICLES PILE UP AS ACCESS STILL DENIED

Rain, lack of alternative route compound motorists' woes

| Sridhar.Vivan
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Despite the claim by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) that the replacement of cables is done, a ban on heavy vehicles continues at the Peenya flyover. Consequently, traffic congestion on this route has worsened, making it difficult for vehicles to get past the flyover.

The delay in granting permission for heavy vehicles to use the route has exacerbated the woes of daily commuters, who are enduring severe conditions on the national highway. Ambulances are also getting stuck in the traffic, putting patients' lives at risk. Additionally, the city has experienced continuous rain for the past 15 days, leading to water accumulation on the road and causing vehicle breakdowns.

The traffic police report that vehicles are getting stuck on the road, and the situation is deteriorating. Thousands of vehicles from various districts, including Hassan, Tumakuru, Davanagere, and Mangaluru, enter the city during peak hours, exacerbating the chaos. The lack of an alternative route

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Officials report that the repair work on the flyover has been completed, but the reason for the delay in granting permission remains unclear —Moninudduin, truck driver

No funds to remove weed?

Best time for removal of weeds such as Lantana was anyway between Jan and May, say experts

| Garima Prasher
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Karnataka Forest Department's (KFD) exotic weed removal scheme, to pave the way for native plants by eradicating invasive weeds such as Lantana, has not taken off this year in Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

According to the officials from KFD, the de-weeding process in the tiger reserve has not taken off due to a delay in fund allocation.

"We have not been able to roll the scheme yet in Bandipur this year. Fund allocation to remove exotic invasive plant species has to happen under CAMPA and Project Tiger, which is still pending. We have asked for Rs 1 crore to clear 100 hectares of area this year. Work will begin as soon as we receive the funds," said S Prabhakaran, Deputy Conservator of Forest and Director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

Notably, an estimate on the extent of the weed's invasion done by Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (KSRSAC) nearly a year ago showed that leaving aside one-fourth of the total area of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Celebrate with pride

Experience the ultimate celebration of love, identity, and expression. Satrangi Mela, India's first all-day queer festival, returns with a Pride Edition to celebrate diversity and community together. Explore vibrant pop-up markets, enjoy live performances, and connect with like-minded individuals at this networking mixer. Don't miss the drag showcase featuring Gentleman Gaga, Musiqill, and Dusky Dee, hosted by Vadsu.
Where: Indiranagar Social; When: June 9, 2 pm

02 Let music take control

Discover the magic of Soul Jams, where music enthusiasts find solace and connection. Step into a sanctuary where the melodies carry you away from the ordinary. Whether you're a seasoned musician or just starting, you're welcome to bring your instrument of choice and join the inclusive community for an unforgettable jamming experience. Participate and let the music set you free. **Where: 1MG –Lido mall; When: June 8, 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm**

03 Melodic euphoria

Experience Melodic Mirage, an electrifying night of music brought to you by HerFunMola. Join an unforgettable evening in Bangalore as Delhi's renowned 7-piece band takes the stage. Let the pulsating rhythm and soul-stirring harmonies captivate your senses, leaving you with lasting memories. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a musical journey like no other.
Where: Hoot Cafe and Brewery; When: June 8, 8 pm to 11.30 pm

All CET: Engineering seats in high demand

2.74 lakh students opt for engineering courses as compared to 1.71 lakh in 2022

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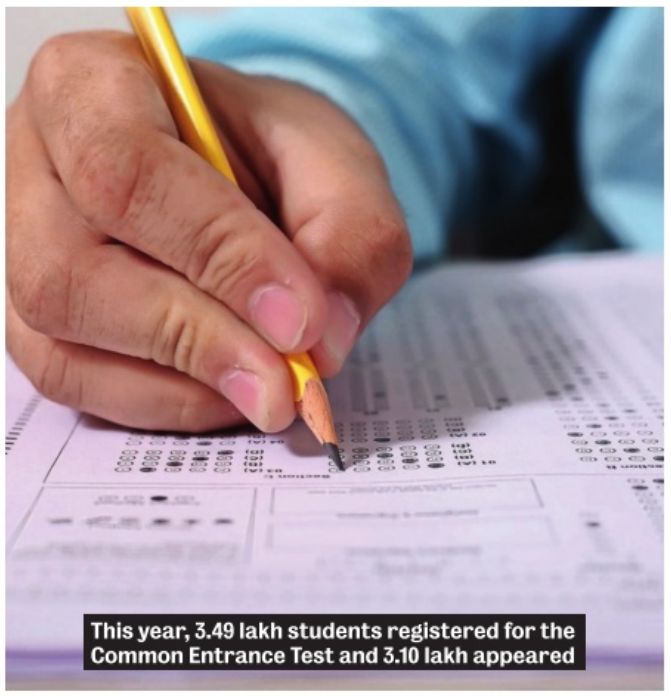

This year, 3.49 lakh students registered for the Common Entrance Test and 3.10 lakh appeared

Despite a hiring slowdown, there's a surge in demand for engineering seats, attributed to a notable rise in qualified students this year. Last year, out of 67,606 engineering seats, 57,651 were occupied, leaving 9,995 vacant. This year, 3.49 lakh students registered for the CET exam, 3.10 lakh appeared, and 2.74 lakh qualified for engineering admissions. Over the past two years, eligible engineering candidates increased by an average of 1 lakh, but available seats didn't match this growth. Consequently, this year's demand for engineering seats is significantly higher.

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) Vice Chancellor S Vidyashankar said, "This year, there will be a high demand for engineering courses as many students have qualified for engineering admissions through CET. The management quota seats are already being filled, which is a testament to this." The science stream is experiencing a notable increase in exam takers, 2 lakh in 2021-22, 2.24 lakh in 2022-23, and 2.77 lakh in 2023-24. Despite this, the pass percentage remains consistently high at 89.96%.

This year, a notable surge in students eligible for engineering admissions is evident, with numbers rising from 1.71 lakh in 2022 to 2.74 lakh currently. Over the past two years, there's been an average increase of 1 lakh in eligible students. However, available engineering seats haven't matched this growth, leading to increased demand this year.

The recent PU exam results confirm this pattern, showing a science stream pass percentage of 89.96%, surpassing the overall pass percentage. This indicates a growing preference for the science stream among students preparing for engineering admissions. Consequently, there's an anticipation of high demand for engineering seats this year, potentially leading to challenges in securing admission to prestigious colleges. Officials emphasise the surge in students qualifying for engineering admissions through CET, evident in the swift filling of management quota seats.

The Common Entrance Test (CET) has emerged as a highly popular examination in the state for many compelling reasons. "One of the primary factors contributing to the popularity of CET is its state-level nature. Unlike national-level entrance exams that often attract a vast pool of students from across the country, CET focuses specifically on students within the state. This localised approach levels the playing field for students, particularly those from rural areas. Rural students, who may have limited access to high-quality coaching institutes or resources compared to their urban counterparts, find CET to be a fair platform where they can showcase their knowledge and skills without facing the intense competition seen in national-level exams," said an official.

> **"This year, there will be a high demand for engineering courses as many students have qualified for admissions through CET** – S Vidyashankar, VTU

He further added that another significant aspect of CET is its lack of negative marking. Unlike many competitive exams, where incorrect answers lead to deductions, CET's policy offers relief to test-takers by not penalising mistakes. This approach fosters confidence and allows students to focus on showcasing their strengths. Additionally, CET's inclusivity ensures that all exam takers are eligible for admission, providing opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds to pursue engineering or related courses.

Let there be fun & games: International day of play will be celebrated in state

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The Directorate of Child Protection has recommended to the Secretary of Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens to organise celebrations for the International Day of Play on June 11 at child-care institutions throughout the state.

The first-ever International Day of Play on June 11 is seen as a big step in promoting and prioritising playing for everyone, especially kids, so they reap the rewards and thrive to their full potential. Child rights activists have welcomed the decision to celebrate the first-ever International Day of Play on June 11.

The Project Director of the Directorate of Child Protection, in the letter dated June 1, 2024, advised the Secretary of Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, to allow the volunteers of Concern for Working Children to organise sports and other activities at child care centres on the occasion of the International Day of Play.

"I welcome the decision to celebrate International Day of Play on June 11. I wanted the authorities not to confine just to child care centers. It will benefit a large number of students if the

authorities make arrangements at schools to celebrate this day. I believe that sports can build confidence in students and help them live peacefully and harmoniously," said Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust.

Kavita Ratna, Executive Director of Concerned for Working Children (CWC), stated that the establishment of the International Day of Play came after

more than a year and a half of advocating for the cause with the United Nations. "Five children – Sriraksha, Nishmitha, Anjali, Tanush, and Maheshwari – from Udupi and Vijayanagara districts, who as members of the Child and Youth Advisory Group, led the development of the Call To Action for the International Day of Play. Many countries, who are members of the UN, have supported this initiative and finally, the UN declared June 11 as the International Day of Play," said Kavita Ratna.

Man stabs son as he tries to break up fight

A quarrel among family members over the care of a bedridden woman turned fatal in Jarganahalli, resulting in the death of 23-year-old Yashwant, a software engineer.

The incident occurred in the family's residence on Tuesday. It is said there were frequent disputes between Yashwant's parents over the responsibility of taking care of his bedridden grandmother. An argument broke out on Tuesday, that escalated to a physical confrontation.

According to police reports, Yashwant intervened in an attempt to mediate the conflict between his parents. During the altercation, his father, Basavaraju, reportedly grabbed a kitchen knife to intimidate his son. In the ensuing struggle, Basavaraju accidentally plunged the knife into Yashwant's chest, inflicting a fatal wound.

"There were frequent quarrels between the parents regarding the care of the deceased's grandmother. This fight escalated, and the son went to intervene.

During the push and shove between father and son, the father brought a knife from the kitchen and stabbed him. Yashwant died on the way to the hospital," said the police. The Puttenahalli police have taken Basavaraju into custody, and an investigation is underway. – BMB

App to track, deploy traffic wardens

Organisation ties up with MapmyIndia to allow better deployment of personnel to help man B'luru's traffic

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Optimising the traffic warden team, the traffic warden organisation (TWO) will now use an app to track wardens and deploy them in zones prone to congestion.

Nearly 800 traffic wardens will now be mandated to log into an app to record their service rendered. TWO has tied up with MapmyIndia to develop an app to record and locate traffic wardens.

The TWO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MapMyIndia to use their Work Mate App to record the regulation duty hours of our traffic wardens. The app aims to enhance

the efficiency and accuracy of duty hour tracking, ensuring better management and accountability. The Work Mate App, developed by MapMyIndia, will streamline the process, providing real-time data and improving overall operational effectiveness for our Traffic Wardens.

Currently, the app is not being used by traffic wardens and the managers are being trained to use it. it will soon be mandated to be used by all traffic wardens.

"This app will allow us to track our traffic wardens. The heads of division will be asked to track location and count the hours of duty. Sometimes, the traffic wardens work for extra hours and now the app will record their service. In case they see too many traffic jams in one area, they can report to their service providers. The app will update data on the incidents and the highest incident report will be generated. As an incentive, the warden reporting most incidents will be awarded," said CV Muralidhar, Chief Traffic Warden.

He added that in case traffic wardens are deployed in an area with high congestion, additional wardens can be assigned to the location.

There are nearly 800 active traffic wardens in the city that assist the Bengaluru Traffic Police in managing traffic. However, in some areas, wardens are deployed only in some parts. The app will allow better deployment of personnel based on the data.

Couple found dead in their home

A couple's suspicious death has come to light in Janatha Colony, Bannerghatta. Prabhu (38), a driver, and Lakkamma (30), an employee at a garment company, are suspected to have committed suicide by consuming poison.

The couple, who had been in a relationship for several years, were found dead in their residence. The incident is believed to have occurred three days prior, as the bodies were found in a decomposed state. The discovery was made after neighbours reported a foul odour emanating from the house, prompting them to inform the local police.

Upon receiving the information, Bannerghatta police visited the scene and began an investigation. The house, owned by one Vishwanath, became the focal point of the inquiry. The bodies of Prabhu and Lakkamma were sent for postmortem examination.

While initial suspicions point towards suicide by poison, the precise circumstances surrounding the deaths remain unclear. The police have registered a case investigating to ascertain whether the incident was a case of suicide or if foul play was involved.

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Students design road map to revitalise lakes

From dragonfly applications to public gardens, team leads projects to drive change through design and tech

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File photo of construction activities inside a lake in Bengaluru

To tackle the urgent ecological concerns at Puttenahalli and Yelahanka Lakes in North Bengaluru, a team of five students initiated a project focused on protecting and revitalising these waterbodies. The project examined the lakes' complex ecology and social context, aiming to propose innovative environmental, spatial, and technological solutions.

The initiative raised important questions about the conservation of urban waters, moving beyond traditional engineering methods to adopt a post-humanist viewpoint. It examined the potential contributions of artists and designers in understanding and interpreting both the built and unbuilt environments of Bengaluru. Emphasising community involvement, the initiative highlighted the power of mapping as a tool for representation and analysis.

One of the standout outputs of the project was a 1:2000 scale physical model that captured the contours of North Bengaluru. This model highlighted the existing road layouts and the chaotic urban planning that has characterised the city's development. Through theoretical frameworks like Henri Lefebvre's Rhythmanalysis, the students used mapping to analyse the ecological aspects of Puttenahalli Lake, taking into account its sensory dimensions such as smells, sounds, and the fluctuating boundaries of wetness.

One of the innovative projects, 'The Tiny World', focused on the dragonfly population around the lake. This initiative utilised an app to study how dragonflies enrich the ecosystem and serve as indicators of water quality. Another project envisioned a utopian public garden along Bengaluru's watershed, showcasing the potential of ecological and spatial redesigns in urban planning. The studio developed practical designs, including an experience centre to raise public awareness about Bengaluru's lakes and a website highlighting the importance of dragonflies. Students also proposed a porous boundary between lakes and nearby universities to enhance ecological interaction.

Inspired by the World Design Protopolis (WDP) programme, which supports solutions-based initiatives for global development issues, this project was part of the Centre of Excellence at Srishti Manipal Institute (SMI) under the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE). Guided by Dr Geetha Narayanan, the project emphasised the urgency of addressing urban water ecologies and highlighted emerging opportunities for designers to contribute to sustainable urban development. The project not only equipped the students with essential skills but also fostered a deep appreciation for the complex interplay between urban development and ecological preservation.

> **"We aimed to ask urgent questions about how we can reimagine city's wetlands, considering their deterioration**
> – Priya Joseph, SMI

Priya Joseph, a faculty member at Srishti Manipal Institute, MAHE Bengaluru, said, "In the summer of 2024, Bengaluru was grappling with a severe water shortage. The city was brought to its knees, with the impact of the crisis varying depending on one's ability to afford water tankers. We aimed to ask urgent and critical questions as designers about how we could reimagine Bengaluru's wetlands, considering their deterioration and the adverse effects on its citizens. Rustam Vania, one of the academic deans, and I initially proposed this question as a final-year student project."

She further highlighted how this initiative provided students with a platform to work on Puttenahalli and Yelahanka lake, in collaboration with stakeholders like the Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust and professionals like Vishwanath S.

HBR Layout residents sickened by sewage in Cauvery water

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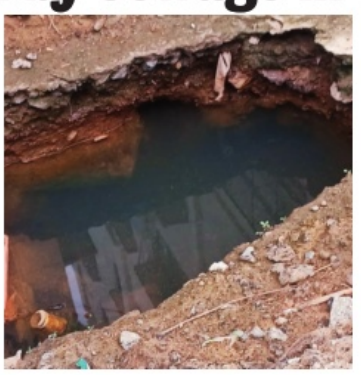
The community residing at 6th Main, 9th Cross, 3rd Block in HBR Layout faces an ongoing public health emergency, with sewage water contaminating their Cauvery water supply. Since 2019, this persistent issue has resulted in various health issues, financial strains, and a declining standard of living for citizens.

Despite multiple complaints and promises of corrective action from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), no permanent solution has been implemented. Resident Vikram Mailar Vijay expressed the community's frustration: "The smell is unbearable. The whole street smells like sewage. The amount of sewage entering the sumps of citizens is unacceptable. The BWSSB team came in but with no outcome. This callous attitude—'we need to check, we will check, we are not sure, we are awaiting grants, we are waiting for the budget, we are waiting for election results'—is causing public suffering. We are tired of listening to excuses."

The contamination has forced citizens to often clean their water sumps and borewells, costing them thousands of rupees. "Every time there is a mixing of sewage with water, we need to call sump cleaners and overhead tank cleaners, paying ₹2,000 for cleaning and then call local water tankers, paying them ₹1,000 for filling the sump," a resident said.



Vikram said, "The ageing water infrastructure is at the heart of the problem. The Cauvery water pipes, laid over 30 years ago, are in dire need of replacement. The BWSSB has acknowledged this but cites delays in securing grants and completing tender processes. This bureaucratic inertia has left 22 houses on this road facing chronic contamination, especially during rains or sewage blockages."

A temporary fix carried out by the BWSSB recently lasted less than two weeks, exacerbating the citizens' frustration. "Not even two weeks after the temporary fix, our block is served with sewage water along with Cauvery water again," Vikram Mailar Vijay noted. The road's dead-end design further complicates matters, preventing the free flow of sewage and exacerbating blockages.

Despite multiple appeals to BWSSB officials and elected representatives, citizens have consistently received disheartening responses, with claims of pending grants for pipeline replacement.

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Pothole crisis
MEI Road

The poor condition of MEI Road in Yeshwanthpur creates significant problems for vehicle users.

Road congestion
Ebrahim Sahib Street

Encroachment on both the footpath and road is a major issue on the main Ebrahim Sahib Street, particularly opposite Ashok Jewellers and surrounding areas. Due to the encroachment, driving cars or two-wheelers on this road has become difficult.

Left not right
JP Nagar

In JP Nagar 7th Phase, a BWSSB emergency work sign board displays an instruction to keep left, but the sign itself points to the right.

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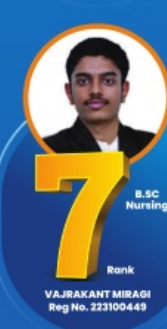

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K-CET (2024) Rank Analysis

Rank	Count	Engg.	BNYS	AGBSE	NURSING	VS	B PHARMA	PHARM D
<=10	19	2	1	0	4	4	4	4
<=100	92	15	12	3	15	15	16	16
<=1000	399	70	44	28	51	51	77	77

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Citizens paint Bengaluru green

Activists and citizens join forces to plant saplings for greener city

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Residents' welfare associations and environmentalists celebrated World Environment Day by participating in clean-up drives and planting saplings in various localities around the city. They removed plastic from the lake bunds and planted hundreds of saplings.

Members of the Subramanyapura Lake Walkers' Association, in collaboration with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) employees, celebrated World Environment Day by clearing plastic around the lake and planting a few saplings.

"There is a lot to be done to save Subramanyapura Lake. The authorities need to take measures to prevent the flow of sewage into the lake. We will continue planting saplings on the lake bund in the future," said Subbanna PN, a resident.

Expressing concern over the garbage and sewage entering the lake, DN Ramamani mentioned that volunteers cleared five to six bags of plastic from the lake bund. "We could not enter the lake to remove garbage. The BBMP Lakes Department has to take measures to keep the lake free from pollution," said Ramamani.

Walkers and volunteers at Ganga Shetty Lake planted 25 saplings on World Environment Day. In appreciation of their service to the environment, volunteers were presented with vegetables and greens. "The members of Santhe Makkalu presented vegetables and greens to those who planted saplings at the lake," said Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

Children taking part in planting saplings at Benniganahalli Lake on Sunday

Namma Bengaluru Foundation volunteers joined hands with lake activists to plant saplings at Ganga Shetty Lake. "The drive started with a pledge to protect the trees and plant more saplings to safeguard Bengaluru's environment. All participants took the pledge, and badges containing Tulasi seeds were distributed, which can be planted at home, promoting sustainability," said Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

The members of Benniganahalli Kere Community Development Trust celebrated World Environment Day on Sunday, three days in advance, by planting saplings at Benniganahalli Lake. "Residents, including children, planted around 100 saplings. It was nice to see so many youngsters participating in the early morning planting," said Subramanian NH, secretary of the Benniganahalli Kere Community Development Trust.

M Sreeram, known for regularly watering hundreds of saplings around KR Puram, planted 10 saplings at Varanasi Lake on Wednesday. "My friends and I planted 10 saplings at Varanasi Lake. I will take up the responsibility of watering these saplings for two years. We planted fruit-bearing saplings for the benefit of birds," said Sreeram.

> "I will take up the responsibility of watering these saplings for two years
> –M Sreeram, activist, KR Puram

Shobha Bhat of Usiru Foundation raised awareness about the importance of preserving lakes among visitors to Srigandhakaval Lake. "I visited Nurture Academy today and advised the students to make their school premises more sustainable by prioritising greenery," said Shobha Bhat.

Students from Sai Ram PU & Degree College and Samsidh International School visited Sundaravana at HSR Layout on the eve of World Environment Day. With the support of Community Task Force (CTF) members, the students planted a few saplings and whispered messages to them. They also took a pledge to avoid plastic usage.

Mantri Square Mall celebrated World Environment Day by distributing 500 saplings to the public, promoting environmental sustainability. These saplings symbolise a brighter future with cleaner air, mitigate climate change, and a haven for local species.

Electric taxi for KIA

Kempegowda International Airport launches 175 electric Airport Taxis with Refex eVeelz, marking a shift towards sustainability. Over 50% of the fleet is electric, aimed at reducing carbon emissions. The announcement coincides with World Environment Day, with 100 saplings planted on the campus. Hari Marar, CEO, emphasises the commitment to eco-friendly solutions.

Metro escalator off, feeder buses on

Reacting to Bangalore Mirror's story, "Escalator breaks down at Magadi Road Metro Station," BMRCL clarified that the escalator at Magadi Road Metro Station had not broken down but was switched off due to heavy water splashing into the station from rain and gusty winds.

"This was done in view of safety concerns to avoid undue incidents, and the escalator was put back into service after the rain stopped. Besides this, an elevator is also available for going from the platform to the road level. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) also coordinated with Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) authorities to arrange feeder bus services between MG Road and Indiranagar Metro Station for the benefit of the public during the disruption of metro services due to a tree falling on the metro track near Trinity Metro June 2," said BL Yashavanth Chavan, Chief Public Relations Officer, BMRCL. — BMB

4 trekkers from K'taka die in Uttarakhand

Four trekkers from Karnataka lost their lives in Uttarakhand due to extreme weather conditions, a senior government officer said on Wednesday.

A 22-member team was sent by Himalayan View Trekking Agency, Maneri, on May 29 for a 35-km trek from Uttarkashi. The team included 18 trekkers from Karnataka, one from Maharashtra, and three local guides, according to Uttarkashi District Magistrate Meharban Singh Bisht.

They died while rescue operations were underway to save others trapped at Sahasratal in Uttarakhand, Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department, Rashmi Mahesh, told PTI. She said the identities of those who died in the tragedy were not yet known. According to Mahesh, the District Magistrate of Garhwal was monitoring the rescue operation. She also mentioned that a helicopter from the Indian Air Force has been deployed for the rescue efforts. — BMB

Insurance firm to compensate chess champ's parent

Melvin Mathew
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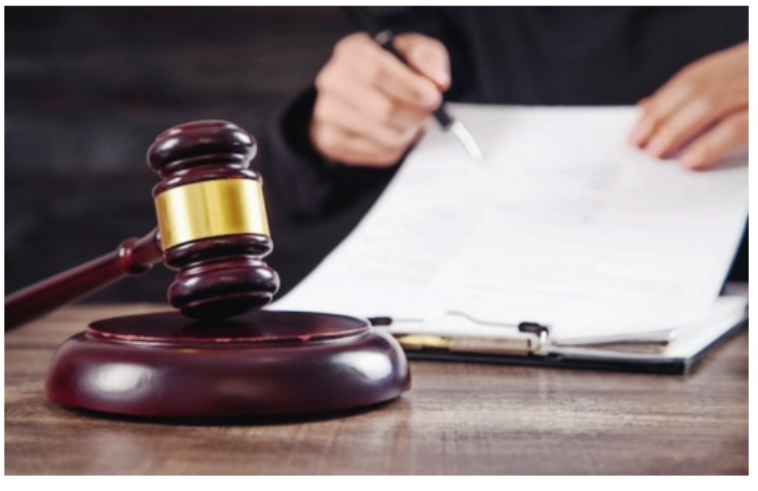
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR



The Bengaluru consumer court has ordered a travel insurance company to pay Rs 1,57,067 to the parent of a chess champion after the company denied claims, stating that the complainant had willfully purchased travel insurance with the knowledge of the ongoing Israel-Palestine war.

The Bangalore Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed NivaBupa Health Insurance Co. Ltd. to pay Rs 1,57,067 as compensation to the complainant. The company was ordered to pay Rs 1,47,067 as a refund for the money received from the complainant within two months. Additionally, the company was asked to pay Rs 5,000 for mental agony and harassment and Rs 5,000 towards litigation expenses.

The complainant, Pritom Bordoloi, had purchased travel insurance policies from NivaBupa Health Insurance Co. Ltd. for himself, his wife, and his mother-in-law. The policy included trip cancellation coverage of up to Rs 82,000 for himself and his wife. He booked tickets for a trip to Egypt to witness their daughter participate in the World Cadet Chess Championship on October 14, 2023.

However, the All India Chess Federation (AICF) cancelled the Egypt trip on the night of October 12, 2023, citing concerns about India's support for Israel against Hamas and the potential impacts of travelling near areas around Israel.

When the complainant filed a claim for the trip cancellation, the company rejected the claim, stating that the Israel war started on October 7, 2023, and that the complainant had willfully purchased the policy after the war began.

Although the original claim amount was Rs 1,62,298, the complainant only filed a claim for Rs 65,067 for himself and Rs 82,000 for his wife. Additionally, the complainant sought Rs 1 lakh in compensation for deficiency in service, mental harassment, and agony.

> The company was asked to pay Rs 5,000 for mental agony and harassment and Rs 5,000 towards litigation expenses

The court observed that since the company did not contest the claim by filing its version, it could be considered that the company admitted to the claim filed by the complainant. After considering the arguments, the court ruled that the company had been deficient in its services and that the complainant was entitled to relief.

K'taka health workers demand regularisation of services

Y Maheswara Reddy
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The members of the Karnataka State Health and Family Welfare NHM Insourced Employees' Union (KSHINEU) are urging the state government to honour its commitment to regularise their services. They have been demanding the state government to address this issue, which has been pending for over 15 years. They hope the Chief Minister will decide on the regularisation of their services during the first Cabinet meeting after the Lok Sabha elections.

"We have been requesting the state government to regularise our services for many years but in vain. Whenever we stage a protest at Freedom Park, politicians express their moral support to us. We staged a protest for 44 days at Freedom Park in support of our demands last year. The then KPCC president and current Deputy Chief Minister DK Shiva Kumar visited us and extended his support. We are requesting the Deputy Chief Minister and the Minister for Health and Family Welfare to regularise our services," said KSHINEU president Ashwath HK.

It is reported that around 27,000 people are working on a contract basis across the state under the National Health Mission (NHM) and are losing financial benefits due to their contract status. "Our contract is renewed every year with a five per cent hike. We worked hard during the lockdown, but our services are not regularised. Doctors and nurses are being paid less than the doctors working at Namma Clinics in Bengaluru," said a nurse, who wished to remain anonymous.

Appealing to the state government to regularise those working under the NHM, Shauraj Sanganna, general secretary of KSHINEU, stated that the Central Government has already advised the Karnataka Government to absorb the employees working on a contract basis under the NHM, but nothing has been done. "The Central Government may withdraw its funds for the NHM next year. It is the responsibility of the state government to take care of insourced employees. Currently, the state government is spending Rs 900 crore per year, and it may need Rs 1,200 crore more if all the insourced employees are regularised," said Sanganna.

DKS addressing the employees working on contract basis under the NHM when they staged a protest at Freedom Park in February 2023

It is reported that around 27,000 people are working on a contract basis across the state under the NHM

He noted that the Manipur Government has agreed to regularise the services of employees working on a contract basis under the NHM. "We are appealing to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shiva Kumar and Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao to regularise our services," he said, adding that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured the KSHINEU members of his support when they met him on March 16, 2024.

Guest teachers to fill the gap in govt schools

Edu dept recruits 45,000 teachers to address shortages, prioritise rural areas and critical subjects

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In response to the shortage of teachers in government primary and high schools, the Education Department has mandated the recruitment of 45,000 guest teachers for the academic year 2024-25. The department proposes hiring 35,000 guest teachers for primary schools and 10,000 for high schools to fill the vacant teaching positions in state government schools. Of the 35,000 guest teachers sanctioned for primary schools, 33,863 have been appointed, while 8,954 out of the 10,000 sanctioned for high schools have been appointed. The department has set an honorarium of Rs 10,000 for primary school guest teachers and Rs 10,500 for high school guest teachers. Additionally, the department has released a district-wise list of vacant positions.

An official said, "Guest teachers need to be appointed based on the available vacant positions within the education system. This appointment process should be conducted through the headmaster or principal of each respective school. There should be a clear prioritisation strategy in place, giving preference to rural areas and schools with higher student populations. Schools categorised as special institutions, such as Karnataka Public Schools, bilingual schools, English medium schools, and model schools, should aim to appoint 100 per cent of their teaching staff as guest teachers."

The selection of guest teachers must be merit-based, taking into account the minimum qualifications required for each teaching position. In cases where regular teachers are either appointed or transferred, the guest teachers currently fulfilling those roles should be relieved of their duties. Subsequently, these guest teachers should be redeployed to other schools within the taluk, aligning with the specific educational needs and requirements of those areas. Priority should be given to the appointment of guest teachers in critical subject areas such as mathematics, science, and English. However, guest teachers should not be appointed to schools that already have an excess of teaching staff.

"Prioritising rural areas and schools with larger student populations is a strategic move that will have a lasting impact
–Prakash Kumar, guest lecturer

An official said, "To offset the teacher shortage in government primary and high schools, the Education Department has initiated the appointment of 45,000 guest teachers. Alongside this, the department has established an honorarium for guest teachers and has also disseminated a district-wise inventory of vacant positions. The criteria for appointing guest teachers emphasise merit, with a particular focus on prioritising rural areas and schools with larger student populations."

Reacting to this, Prakash Kumar, a guest teacher, said, "As a guest teacher, I find immense purpose in addressing the critical issue of teacher shortages, particularly in government primary and high schools. Our role extends far beyond simply filling vacant positions; it's about bringing passion, dedication, and a commitment to quality education to every classroom we enter. The decision by the Education Department to appoint 45,000 guest teachers signifies a significant step towards bridging the gap in educational staffing. Additionally, prioritising rural areas and schools with larger student populations is a strategic move that will have a lasting impact on educational outcomes across the board. Together, we can create a brighter future through education, one classroom at a time."

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Officials claim NHAI yet to respond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

compounds the problem, forcing all vehicles to use the same road, resulting in significant time wastage.

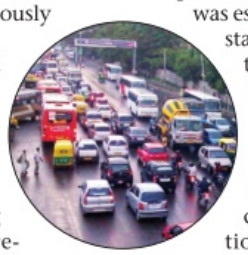
Over the past two days, the condition of the vehicles and the plight of commuters have become unbearable. Vehicles are stuck in a 1-2 km long queue near the toll booth located off Nagasandra Metro station. During weekends, commuters traveling between Nelamangala and Yeshwanthpur faced severe difficulties, unable to move forward. Frustrated commuters expressed their dissatisfaction with the situation.

"Officials report that the repair work on the flyover has been completed, but the reason for the delay in granting permission remains unclear.

If permission is granted, the major problem will be resolved," said Moninudduin, a truck driver. An NHAI official stated that discussions with IISc experts on allowing heavy vehicles on the flyover will be held soon.

A senior police official said that they are yet to hear from NHAI. "The highway authorities have not taken any action yet. In January, we allowed vehicles to take an alternative route and conducted a capacity test. Since then, the highway authorities have not contacted us. Water is accumulating on the highway. If buses and tankers are allowed to pass through the flyover, the vehicle congestion on the Tumakuru Road would be reduced to some extent," he said.

Earlier this year, the NHAI initiated a load test recently to evaluate the strength of the prestressed cables on the Peenya flyover. As part of the test, eight trucks, each carrying 32 tonnes were driven on the flyover continuously for over 48 hours.



After conducting a load test, Professor JM Chandra Kishen from Indian Institute of Science had said, "The analysis of the test results indicates that the flyover is now capable of handling heavy vehicles. Our comprehensive report supports this finding." He had said there would be another meeting with NHAI where the IISc would present its reports after which the NHAI would decide when heavy vehicles can be allowed on the flyover.

In the last year or so, 240 prestressed cables were relaid between 120 pillars. The Peenya flyover, one of the city's longest, features 120 piers and a total of 1,200 cables, with 10 cables between two pillars. As a precautionary measure, there is an option to add two more cables between pillars.

Hence, the experts relaid 240 prestressed cables so that heavy vehicles could be allowed on the flyover.

An expert noted, "The work was delayed due to various issues including limited workspace within the bridge and difficulties in inserting new cables. Weather conditions, including rain, had also posed challenges. The repair cost was estimated at Rs 13 crore. It all started when the 4.35 kilometre long Peenya flyover had water logging issues on top of the flyover.

Hence, NHAI decided to inspect the drainage facility to identify the root cause for the water stagnation on the flyover surface. This was when the officials stumbled upon the shocking fact that four pre-stressed cables had been severely damaged.

Hence, NHAI took a decision on December 25, 2021 to suspend the traffic on the flyover. Then, a team of experts from IISc inspected the stretch and permitted light vehicles on the flyover from February 16, 2022. However, heavy vehicles are still not allowed on the flyover stretch."

Invasive weeds not yet removed from Bandipur

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the tiger reserve, the rest of the landscape was invaded by lantana. While the majority of the forest landscape had a 20% and 60% density of weed, some pockets recorded a weed density of up to 80%, restricting the movement of animals in those areas.

Bad timing

Experts say the best time for the removal of weeds such as Lantana is between January and May when plants are not flowering and fruiting.

"This year's de-weeding should have been completed by now. It will be difficult to uproot the weeds now as the rains have already started. All the weeds will shoot up now, making removal difficult. Even if they remove it now, it will regrow within 15 days. Lantana, when summer it is dry. Removal will be easy, unfortunately, they also germinate during summer," said Ramesh Belagere, wildlife researcher, Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

Wildlife conservationists also suggest that the department must draft a separate policy for lantana removal as it is the most invasive and widespread. They opine the current fund being allocated is not sufficient looking at the high level of invasion.

"Currently, the funds secured are being used for the removal of all exotic invasive plants, which is proving to be insufficient. The department must consider securing funds specifically for Lantana's removal for the scheme to be effective.

The extra funds will also ensure better machines and bigger manpower to expedite the process and cover more area. Clean utilization of funds should happen and it should get diverted to any other program," said Belagere.

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I, RUPA B CHIKKAMATH alias BHAVANA CHANDRASHEKHARAYA GURUVINAMATH alias BHAVANA, W/o Chandrashekharayya Guruvinamath, R/o Villa #36, 3G Crimson, Channasandra, Kadugodi Main Road, Kadugodi, Bengaluru - 560067, have changed my name as BHAVANA CHANDRASHEKHARAYYA GURUVINMATH, vide affidavit dated 29.05.2024 sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru

I, CHANDRASHEKHARAYA alias CHANDRASHEKHARAYA GURUVINMATH, S/o Shivaputrayya Guruvinama, R/o Villa #36, 3G Crimson, Channasandra, Kadugodi Main Road, Kadugodi, Bengaluru - 560067, have changed my name as CHANDRASHEKHARAYA GURUVINAMATH, vide affidavit dated 29.05.2024 sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru

I, SANJANA CHANDRASHEKHARAYA, D/o Chandrashekharayya Guruvinamath, R/o Villa #36, 3G Crimson, Channasandra, Kadugodi Main Road, Kadugodi, Bengaluru - 560067, have changed my name as SANJANA CHANDRASHEKHARAYYA GURUVINAMATH, vide affidavit dated 29.05.2024 sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I, MOHAN.S, S/o Shankaran.K DOB 02-11-1988,Residing at B 21/12 phase-1 drdo complex c v raman nagar bangalore 560093. Have changed my Father name from shankaran kuppuswamy to SHANKARAN.K (Expansion of initial K is KANNAIYA) sworn to affidavit dated 04.06.2024 before notary udaykumar.k bangalore

I, K.Mallikarjuna Residing at Bangalore rural District, Hosakote Town, Ward No.10, 2nd Cross, Gangammagudi Road, Near Govt School, Sir MV extension, Hosakote - 562114. Have changed my name from Mallikarjunaiah.K to K.Mallikarjuna vide affidavit dated 04.06.2024 Sworn Before Notary V.Sadappa, Bangalore

I, HIRIYANNAPPA S/o Hucharayappa R/at No.1508, 4th A Cross, Chamundi Nagar, Bengaluru- 560032, have changed my name to DAVID HIRANNAYYA vide affidavit dated: 31/5/2024 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I Radhika Biplab Chakrabarty, d/o Biplab Chakrabarty, residing at House no 40/1, 27th main, 2nd cross, Ejipura, 560047, Karnataka, have changed my name to Radhika Chakrabarty.

I, K R Mohan R/o 302 4th Floor Arrow Elite, 7th Cross Right, Alfa Gardens Ayyappa Nagar Bangalore 560036 have changed my minor daughter's name from K Digvi Mohan to Digvi Mohan Kalavagunta.

I Aman Vardhan, s/o Brajesh Kumar Singh residing at B301, Smondo 2, Neotown, Electronic City Phase 1 , Bengaluru-560099, Karnataka, have changed my name to AMAN VARDHAN SINGH.

I mohammed aqeel Azhar, s/o Abu Mohammed residing at No #40,andree road , Shanti Nagar, Bengalore - 560027 , Karnataka Have changed my name to ABU AQEEL AZHAR CHAD.

I, Sadiya Banu R/o #8/5 6th Cross Doddamavalli lalbagh Fort Rd, B'lore-560004 have changed my minor daughter name from Mahira Khan to Amina HARAM

I, CHANDRAKUMARA NAGARAJA, S/o. Nagaraj, Residing at No. 469 B, 15th B Cross, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru-560098, have changed my name to CHANDRAKUMAR NAGARAJ, vide affidavit dated: 05.06.2024 before notary V. Rajashekhara, Bengaluru.

I, Monish Kemparaju S/o Kemparaja r/o #289 Kundana Hobli Devanahalli Taluk Aradeshahalli B'lore -562110 have changed my name to Monish Gowda Kemparaja for all purposes

I Rajan Jayakanthan Jayaseelan S/o Jayaseelan R/o #22,2nd Flr, Beml Layout,T.C Palya Rd,Margondanahalli,K R Puram Post, B'lore-560036 have changed my name to Rajan Jayakanthan for all purposes.

I Shahid Anjum S/O, Nayaz Ahmed Shariff Khalak R/o No 32/1 3rd Cross Krishnamma Garden Aqsa Masjid Bengaluru 560046 have changed my name to Shahid Anjum Nayaz.

I Khalid Ahamed S/O, Ali Bakash R/o B1003 Pramuk Aqua Heights Phase 1 , Electronic City Bangalore 560100 have changed my name to Khalid Ahmed Ali Bakash.

I, Enayathulla Khan J S/O Jalal Khan # 23 Venkatesh puram Blr' 45 have changed my name to Inayathulla Khan J for all purposes.

I, Nawazulla Khan S/O Inayathulla khan j # 23 venkateshpuram Blr-45 have changed my name to Nawaz ulla Khan for all purposes.

MIXED MESSAGES

You can avoid communication that backfires

The best graduation speeches dispense wisdom you find yourself returning to long after the graduation tassels are turned. Take the feel-good life advice in Baz Luhrmann's song to a class that graduated 25 years ago. Only on a recent relisten did I realise it also captures one of the research-based strategies I teach for avoiding communication that backfires.

The tip is hiding in plain sight in the song's title, "Everybody's Free (to Wear Sunscreen)." Communication aimed at promoting a certain behaviour can have the opposite effect when the message is perceived as a threat to individual autonomy.

Health campaigns frequently use strongly worded messages that end up backfiring. For example, strongly worded messages promoting dental flossing made people angry and more likely to resist flossing their teeth. Coercive alcohol prevention messages, with language like "any reasonable person must acknowledge these conclusions," instead increased alcohol consumption. In contrast, the wording of the title "Everybody's Free (to Wear Sunscreen)" is less likely to backfire by emphasising liberty of choice.

Research reveals lots of reasons why well-meaning attempts to inform, persuade or correct misinformation go awry. Despite the ubiquity of backfires, formal instruction about why they happen and how to avoid them is rare. The omission inspired my new book, "Beyond the Sage on the Stage: Communicating Science and Contemporary Issues Effectively," which translates scholarship from across disciplines into practical strategies that anyone can use to improve communication.

When new info challenges your identity

Backfires are often a response to communication of unwelcome information.

In addition to threats to autonomy, information can be unwelcome because it appears to conflict with how you think about yourself. Consider a study that asked people to read a message about genetically modified foods. Participants for whom purity, health and conscientiousness of their diet was an important part of how they defined themselves had more negative attitudes after reading a message intended to refute their views about GM food. Those who did not have a strong dietary self-concept did not react negatively to the message.

The same resistance can rise up when you're confronted with something counter to the beliefs of a group you feel a strong affiliation with. Emotional and identity attachment to a group such as a political party can cause people to subjugate their own values to align with the group, a phenomenon called cultural cognition. Reactions to messages about climate change often exemplify this phenomenon.

Against the backdrop of protests and an impending election, communication breakdowns are increasingly blamed on political polarization, with more than a hint of fatalism. But the current heavy focus on ideological differences serves only to fuel a vicious cycle that amplifies them. To halt the cycle, the focus needs to shift away from the differences. Divides are not always what they seem, and even when they are, there are often ways to bridge them.

Every person contains multitudes

Encouragingly, a study recently published by the Pew Research Center found that just 11% of Americans consider it very or extremely important that they get their news from journalists who share their political views. Less than 40% of Americans said that it was even somewhat important. The study is a reminder that we are all complex mixes of identities, and those distinct identities can offer fruitful starting points for a conversation.

As the various identities within people interact, the context can bring a particular identity to the fore. For example, a study that examined the importance of voters' identity as parents revealed that when thinking about their children, people were more willing to oppose the policies of their own political party. "Animal lover" is another example of an identity that researchers have time and again seen relegate party identity to the background.

Therefore, appealing to a shared identity is a strategy for bridging the divide.

Another strategy is to make it safe to go against the group without damaging an individual's connection to it. For example, people may act anonymously, which is what happened during the pandemic when some people reportedly chose to wear disguises when getting their covid-19 vaccine.

Accidentally conveying what you don't mean

As in the case of threats to autonomy, the language you choose can minimize backfires caused by threats to group affiliations. People may agree that a proposed action is sound and consistent with their party's beliefs but still reject it if it contains even small polarising cues. Triggers, such as words associated with the opposing party such as "tax" for a conservative or "deregulation" for a liberal, lead people to judge that their party would reject a policy. The fix is to remove both real and perceived threats to group identity by using party-neutral language.

Surprisingly, communication need not be threatening or unwelcome to backfire. It can happen when communication contains hidden unintended messages or when it inadvertently makes an undesired behavior seem normal. For example, messages from a utility about reducing energy use caused low-energy users to consume more energy when their consumption was compared with others, and anti-littering posters emphasizing the extent of the problem increased littering.

Another intuitive communication strategy that backfires is presenting information in a myth-versus-fact format. You've probably seen this format used in communications aimed at debunking myths about health, science, technology, culture and more. Yet, research demonstrates that the "state-and-negate" format makes it more likely people will remember myths as facts. A facts-only approach improves retention of the correct information.

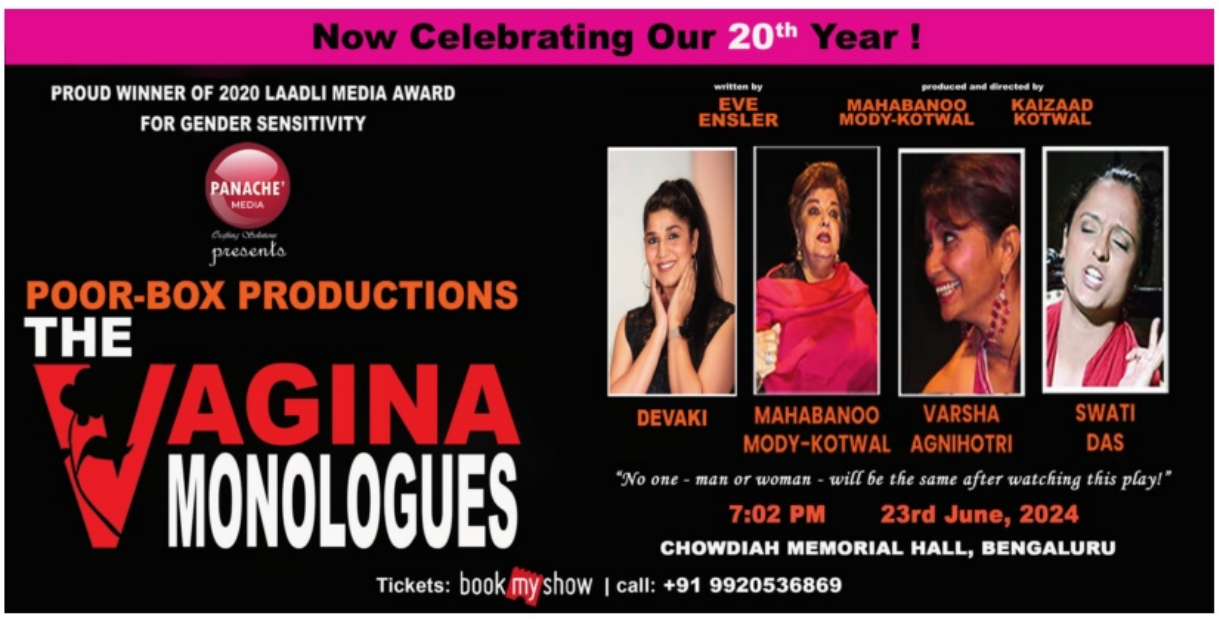
Research finds where instincts lead you astray

"Everybody's Free (to Wear Sunscreen)," originally penned as a newspaper column by journalist Mary Schmich, doesn't tell graduates to trust their instincts, but that is commonly dispensed commencement advice.

The research demonstrates that when it comes to effective communication strategies, trusting your instincts can lead you astray. The same research provides insight into why you may instinctively react in certain ways to some messages.

So, if I were to offer this year's graduates just one tip for the future, I would encourage them to check their communication instincts against evidence-based recommendations. I would call my speech "Everybody's Free (to Beat Backfire).

(By Sherry Seethaler, University of California, San Diego, The Conversation)



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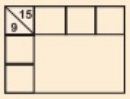
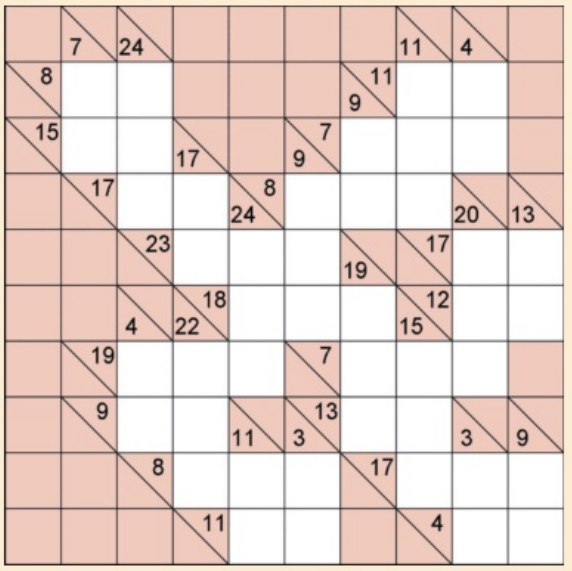
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

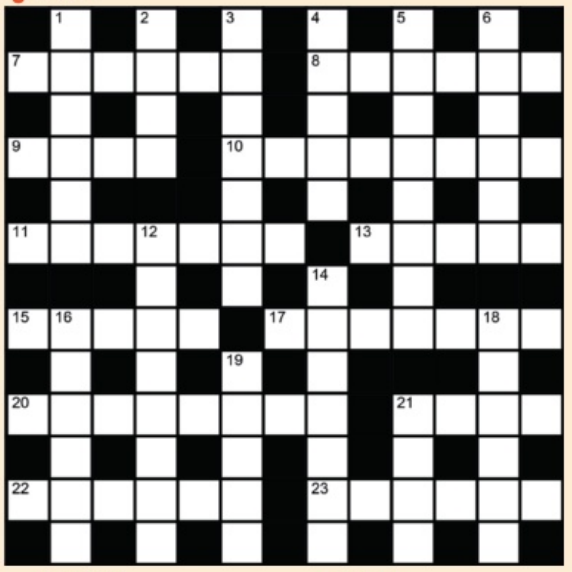


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Harbhajan Singh's petname (6)
8 Having a peerage (6)
9 Cajole (4)
10 Adolph Hitler's paramour (3,5)
11 Expected saviour (7)
13 Sheen (5)
15 Frequently (5)
17 Kohli, Strauss, Tendulkar, etc (7)
20 Wraps up good preparatory to posting (8)
21 Small light beds (4)
22 Afraid (6)
23 Etches or engraves (6)

DOWN

1 Royal seat (6)
2 Dutch football club AFC ___ (4)
3 Motor-cycle attachment? (7)
4 Book of maps (5)
5 Shocks–"starlets" anagram? (8)
6 Proves to be false (6)
12 Sports shoes (8)
14 Units of astronomical length (7)
16 1998 FIFA World Cup winners (6)
18 Right of admission (6)
19 Festival that marks the beginning of the Kannada new year (5)
21 Remedy (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS C

T MTLTZNR NX FLC YSF RTL'Z RSTLDC SNX VNLH TLH YFL'Z RSTLDC ZSC XBPGCRZ.

Linemaro

You are so beautiful you give the sun a reason to shine

Mindchow

When the power of love overcomes the love of power, then the world will know peace

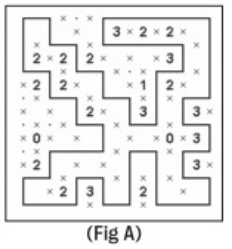
Joke of the day

There are three kinds of people: Those who can count and those who can't

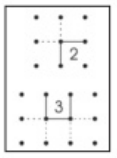
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

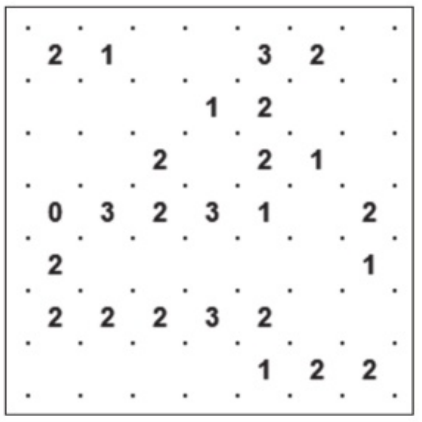


(Fig B) Not Allowed

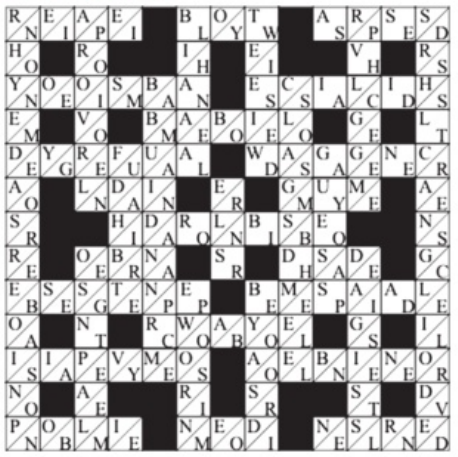
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



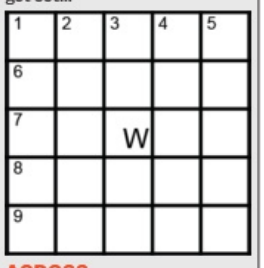
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Prate; 6 Orb me;
7 We day; 8 Ernes;
9 RY arm

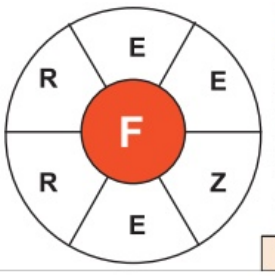
DOWN

1 By SAM; 2 An par;
3 Wrote; 4 Me ere;
5 Dryer

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

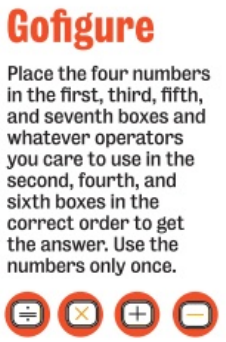
SudokuChallenge

7	6		2		9		8	5
4								6
			1		5			
6		5	7		3	4		1
8		3	6		2	7		9
			3		1			
3								8
5	2		9		8		3	4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 10

2 3 4 7

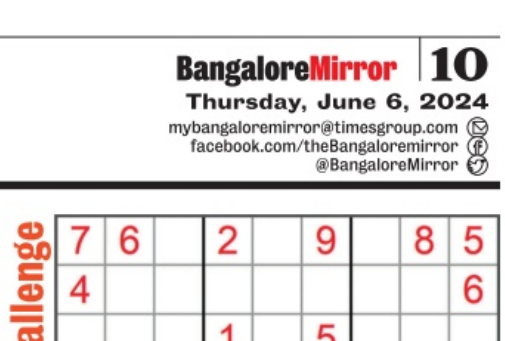
Medium = 7

3 5 8 9

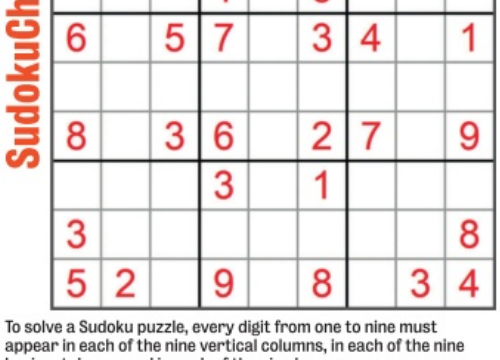
Hard = 28

2 8 9 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



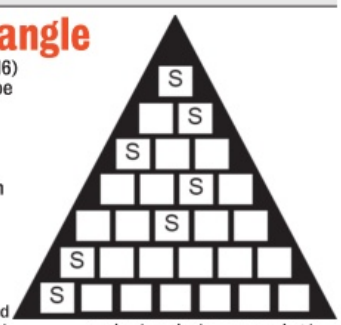
Differences: 1. Fence post is shorter. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Branch is missing. 5. Leaves are added. 6. Dog's ear is different.

Riddler

If one small rabbit can dig a warren in nine hours, a medium rabbit can dig a warren in 6 hours and a large rabbit can dig a warren in four and a half hours. How long will it take one small, one medium and one large rabbit to dig a warren if they all work together?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number (16)
2 Form of verb to be
3 Knight's title
4 Stand
5 Lucre lover
6 Boil gently
7 Water sportsman

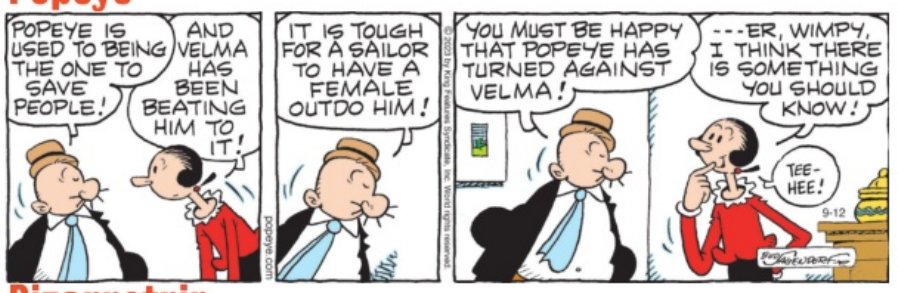


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


POPEYE IS USED TO BEING THE ONE TO SAVE PEOPLE!
AND VELMA HAS BEEN BEATING HIM TO IT!
IT IS TOUGH FOR A SAILOR TO HAVE A FEMALE OUTDO HIM!
YOU MUST BE HAPPY THAT POPEYE HAS TURNED AGAINST VELMA!
---ER, WIMPY, I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW!
TEE-HEE!
9-12

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WHY ARE YOU CLEANING NOW? THE EPISODE JUST STARTED.
DROPPED FOOD IS HOW YOU GET ANTS.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ANTS? THEY'RE NATURE'S HARDEST WORKERS.

Crankshaft

I'M HERE TO CHECK IN FOR MY APPOINTMENT.
YOU NEED TO DO IT ON ONE OF OUR APPOINTMENT CHECK-IN SCREENS.
WE DON'T HAVE HUMAN-TO-HUMAN CHECK-IN ANYMORE.

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be a victim of sleeplessness, which may make you lazy. You may also become careless which may affect your inner strength negatively. You are likely to be nervous at work, which may affect your current project. You are advised to avoid making investments. You are advised to avoid spicy food or be ready to face digestive issues. Avoid rushed driving.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be busy with family matters. You may take some important decisions on the domestic front. You should avoid getting into arguments in your personal life. Your arrogance may affect your domestic harmony. By late evening, things may be under control. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in the business.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today a positive moon may make you happy. You may use your patience at every stage. Your performance may be good at your job, which may get you some incentives in terms of rewards. Health related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job seekers are likely to get suitable jobs in their domain. Love birds may enjoy their time together.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may have fixed results. It is advised that you do not expect more from anyone around you as it may leave you disappointed. Today you may find yourself in a stage of self exploration and self analysis, which may allow you to understand yourself. After the filtration process, you may gain confidence and will be ready to accept challenges around you.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, dissatisfaction may make you upset. You may not be able to enjoy any moment. You may experience lack of patience, which may affect your way of working. Silly mistakes are likely to occur in your way of working. You may also visit some religious places to seek peace. You are advised to practise meditation or yoga.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon and your destiny is likely to be with you. Today you may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay off in terms of success. Your colleagues may help you. You are likely to go on a short work-related trip. You may hear some good news from your sibling.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, messy situations are now under control. You may feel peace of mind. You may be able to strike a proper balance in expenditure and earnings, which may raise your financial health. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking as it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their future. Love birds may enjoy happy moments.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may get good support from your family members. You may also see expansion in your family business during these days, which will increase the social status of your family. You may also plan to expand your family in terms of a new child, which may improve bonding between family members. Students may apply for some scholarships for higher studies.

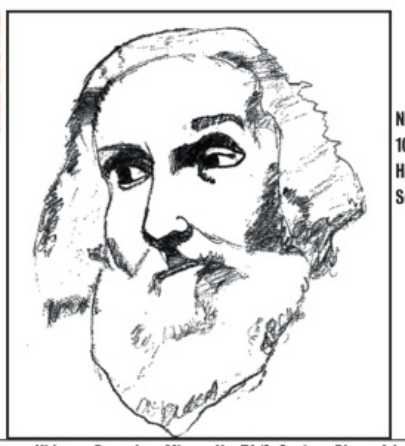
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may face health issues. Last night's sleeplessness may make you mentally tired. You may not be focused on your work. You may feel lazy, which may affect your commitments. It is advised that you avoid rush driving or any adventure tour. You are also advised to avoid spending money on worthless items.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may be happy. You may spread happiness around you and you may feel harmony in domestic life. You may enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may support you to take some important decisions on the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business or work.

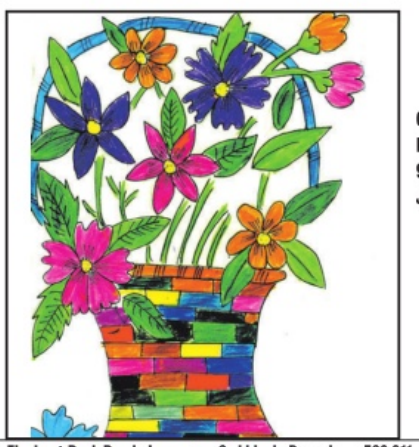
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be more spiritual and your destiny may be with you. You may expect good gains from your past investments. Bonding with the boss is likely to be improved, which may give you benefits in terms of promotions. You may also hear some good news from your sibling. You are advised to control your harsh manner of speaking in love and personal life as it may affect your relationships.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be busy with a social get-together. You may also meet some old friends and your network might be strong, which may give you benefits in the near future on the work front. Those in jobs related to export and import, glamour or artefacts may perform well. Students are likely to perform better today in terms of study. Love birds may enjoy happy moments.

KIDZONE



Nidhi CN, 10 Years Holy Angel School



Gowri Krishnan, 9 Years, JGVRK

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
2 hours. Explanation: Determine how much of a warren each can do in one hour. The small rabbit can dig a warren in nine hours so digs 1/9 in one hour. The medium rabbit can dig a warren in 6 hours so digs 1/6 in one hour. The large rabbit can dig a warren in four and a half hours so digs 1/4.5 in one hour. 1/9 + 1/6 + 1/4.5 = 0.5. So in one hour, they have dug half a warren between them, the whole warren will thus take 2 hours.

BULL'S EYE
free, freer, freeze, FREEZER, reel, reefer, refer

FAST FIVE

A	P	T	E	R
B	R	O	M	E
S	N	E	E	R
Y	A	W	E	D
M	A	R	R	Y

STRIKE OUT

N	O	M	E		N	O	D		E	S	N	E
O		E		I		R		T		V
S	I	E	V	E	S		A	L	B	I	N	O
A		T		C	O	B	O	L		G		L
E	S	S	E	N	E		B	E	S	I	D	E
R		E	R	A		S		H	S	D		G
O		N	A	N		R		M	U	M		A
R		I	D	O	L	I	S	E		N		
E	Y	E	F	U	L		D	A	G	G	E	R
M	V		B	A	B	E	L		E		T	
Y	E	O	M	A	N		S	C	A	L	D	S
H		R		I		I		H		R		
R	I	P	E		B	O	W		S	P	E	D

QUICK

	T		A		S		A		S	R
B		A		D		L		A		B
	C		S		T		T		L	
C		A		E		V		A		R
	N		E		A		C		A	
M	E	S	S	I	A	H		G	L	O	S	S
		N				C			T	
P		A		C		K		A		G		E
	R		A		U		R		N		
O		F	T	E	N		B	A	T	S	M	E	N
			E				P					
S	C	A	R	E	D		C	A	R	V	E	S
	E		S		I		S		E			

SOLVE IN 1M
(5·10·6) = 300
300 / 3 = 100
100 * 7 = 700
700 + 3 -2 = 701

QUOTE UNCODE
A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.

MENSA PUZZLE
29: (31 + 2) – 29 = 4.

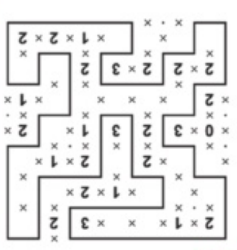
SUDOKU

7	6	1	2	4	9	3	8	5
4	5	9	8	3	7	2	1	6
2	3	8	1	6	5	9	4	7
6	9	5	7	8	3	4	2	1
1	7	2	5	9	4	8	6	3
9	8	4	3	6	1	2	7	5
8	4	3	6	5	2	7	9	1
3	1	7	4	2	6	5	9	8
5	2	6	9	7	8	1	3	4

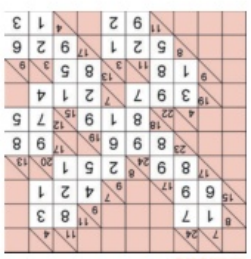
ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, Is, Sir, Rise, Miser, Slimmer, Swimmer.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 – 3 + 4 + 2 = 10
Medium
3 – 9 + 8 + 5 = 7
Hard
2 x 2 x 9 – 8 = 28

LOOP



KAKURO



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NEW ROLE MODEL

Sharvari tells us who her favourite actor is and what she aims for with her roles

Sharvari Wagh, who made her theatrical debut with Yash Raj Films' 'Bunty Aur Babli 2' with Rani Mukerji, Saif Ali Khan and Siddhant Chaturvedi, is gearing up for the release of 'Munjya'. It's been a long wait to see her onscreen again post 'Bunty Aur Babli 2', but Sharvari has the most interesting line-up ahead. In a chat with ETimes, she discusses her upcoming movies, including a spy film with Alia Bhatt.

Post 'Munjya', Sharvari has 'Maharaj' with Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan and Jaideep Ahlawat, which is an OTT release. On the other hand, after all the speculations, Sharvari has finally admitted that she's a part of the YRF spy universe movie with Alia Bhatt. She also plays the titular role in 'Vedaa' with John Abraham. The actress opens up on her excitement for her upcoming movies and

says, "I want to be one of those actresses that people can't recognise on screen with any new character. I want to surprise people and it's a very conscious decision. So, 'Munjya' is a horror comedy that people have never seen before. 'Vedaa' is a titular role which has a lot of responsibilities on my shoulders. It's a social drama with Nikkhil Advani, who is one of the best directors in our country."

Talking about the spy universe film, Sharvari expresses, "I'm doing the spy universe film with Alia. She's my favourite actor, so what do I say? It's a big commercial spy universe film. These are all very different genres from each other and I feel I'm blessed." Reports are abuzz that the actors have already started training for the action drama.

'Munjya' is set to release on June 7. The flick sees Sharvari alongside Mona Singh and Abhay Verma.

—ETimes

Cillian to star in Peaky Blinders film

Hollywood star Cillian Murphy is set to return as the fearsome gangster in the 'Peaky Blinders'. However, this time around, the narrative will be condensed into a film.

The film is set to be directed by Tom Harper, who directed episodes of the first season of 'Peaky Blinders' in 2013, reports Variety. Cillian said: "It seems like Tommy Shelby wasn't finished with me. It is very gratifying to be re-collaborating with Steven Knight and Tom Harper on the film version of 'Peaky Blinders.' This is one for the fans."

Tom Harper shared: "When I first directed 'Peaky Blinders' over 10 years ago, we didn't know what the series would become, but we did know that there was something in the alchemy of the cast and the writing that felt explosive. 'Peaky' has been a story about family – and so it's incredibly exciting to be reuniting with Steve and Cillian to bring the movie to audiences."

—IANS

PeeCee and baby

Priyanka Chopra gave fans another peek into her life on the set of her new project, 'The Bluff,' with a series of pictures featuring her daughter, Malti Marie.

Currently in Australia, the actor is busy filming but finds time to share these sweet moments. In the photos that she dropped on her Instagram Stories, Priyanka flaunted her daughter's budding HMU (Hair and Make-Up) skills.

The first photo shows Malti sketching on a mannequin placed on the dressing table, with a notebook beside her. The next image captures the little one holding a hairbrush, examining it with curiosity.

Another adorable picture features Malti playing with a long rope inside the make-up room, which Priyanka captioned, "Practicing her sailing knots."

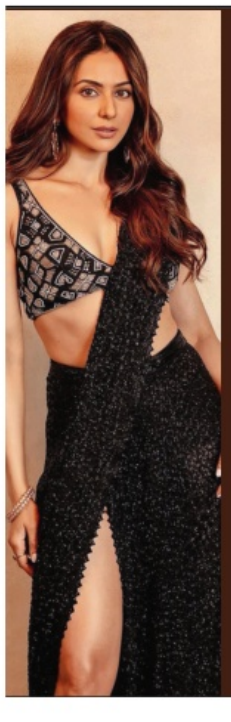
The series concluded with a delightful photo of the mother-daughter duo. They are seen holding a mannequin with a wig on it, with Malti looking happy and Priyanka smiling at her.

Priyanka added a playful caption, "I think 'Diane' is coming home with us (accompanied by a laughter emoji)."

Just a couple of days back, the 'Barfi' actress posted a picture twinning with her daughter, giving us major 'mom-daughter goals.'

On Monday, Priyanka shared an adorable selfie on Instagram featuring her and her little one, Malti Marie Jonas.

—ANI



Head-turner

Rakul Preet Singh, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming action-drama film 'Indian 2,' attended the grand audio launch event in Chennai. For the occasion, the 'Chhatriwali' actress opted for a stunning black sequin saree paired with an embroidered blouse and delicate jewelry. She completed her look with minimal makeup.

Rakul also took to her Instagram followers to take closeup shots of her exquisite look, but it was her husband Jackky Bhagnani's comment that stole the spotlight. Sharing the pictures, Rakul Preet Singh wrote, "There is no such thing as too much black." As soon as she posted the photos, her husband, Jackky Bhagnani, rushed to the comments section and wrote, "Oh my god."

Fans also joined Jackky and flooded the comment section with love and admiration. One user wrote, "Why so pretty?" while another commented, "Ufff gorgeous."

Rakul and Jackky exchanged vows on February 21, 2024, in Goa. and sealed their love with twin ceremonies hosted at the ITC Grand South Goa Hotel.

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Father-son bonding

The trailer of Samaya, a film about the father-son bond was released at Renukamba Preview Theater on Saturday. Kannada Film Directors' Association president NRK Vishwanath launched the trailer.

Vishwanath said directors have to give importance to the script. "If the directors give importance to the selection of a good script, nothing can stop the movie becoming a huge success. I believe there should be no discrimination between big budget and small budget movies," said Vishwanath.

SR Pramod, who wrote the script and directed the movie apart from bankrolling and playing the lead, said the movie revolves around a pampered son who comes to the city from a village for higher studies. "While the father sacrifices all comforts to send his son to Bengaluru, the son opts for a luxurious lifestyle instead of focusing on academics," he said.

Happy, but...

Director Rakshith Thirthahalli is excited to receive the Honorable Jury Mention Award for his movie Timmana Mottegalu at the 14th Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival held at New Delhi recently. But, he is unhappy with the jury members of 15th Bengaluru International Film Festival who did not consider his film.

"I am happy that Timmana Mottegalu got the Honorable Jury Mention Award. It was also screened at the Kolkata International Film Festival. Many people who watched it at the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival appreciated it. I do not know why the Jury Members of 15th Bengaluru International Film Festival failed to select Timmana Mottegalu for an award. They have also failed to recognise my another movie Entha Kathe Maaraya," said Rakshith.

The director said the movie is about King Cobra in Western Ghats. "The movie revolves around a research team and tribal people in the Western Ghats. It also throws some light on why King Cobras, which are supposed to be confined to Western Ghats, are entering nearby villages," the director said. He said he was planning to release the movie shortly.